

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

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151.23 If a Tribal Land Acquisition Area is not approved, is the tribe prohibited from acquiring land within it?

151.24 If a Tribal Land Acquisition Area is approved, does the land taken into trust within it attain reservation status?

151.25 Can a Tribal Land Acquisition Area be modified after approval?

Subpart F—False Statements, Recordkeeping, Information Collection

151.26 What is the penalty for making false statements in connection with a request that BIA place land in trust?

151.27 Who owns the records associated with this part?

151.28 How must a record associated with this part be preserved?

AUTHORITY: R.S. 161; 5 U.S.C. 301. Interpret or apply 46 Stat. 1106, as amended; 46 Stat. 1471, as amended; 48 Stat. 985, as amended; 49 Stat. 1967, as amended, 53 Stat. 1129; 63 Stat. 605; 69 Stat. 392, as amended; 70 Stat. 290, as amended; 70 Stat. 626; 75 Stat. 505; 77 Stat. 349; 78 Stat. 389; 78 Stat. 747; 82 Stat. 174, as amended; 82 Stat. 884; 84 Stat. 120; 84 Stat. 1874; 86 Stat. 216; 86 Stat. 530; 86 Stat. 744; 88 Stat. 78; 88 Stat. 81; 88 Stat. 1716; 88 Stat. 2203; 88 Stat. 2207; 18 U.S.C. 1001; 25 U.S.C. 2, 9, 409a, 450h, 451, 464, 465, 467, 487, 488, 489, 501, 502, 573, 574, 576, 608, 608a, 610, 610a, 622, 624, 640d-10, 1466, 1495, and other authorizing acts.

SOURCE: 66 FR 3458, Jan. 16, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Purpose, Definitions, General

§ 151.1 What is the purpose of this part?

The purpose of this part is to describe the authorities, policies, and procedures that we use to decide whether to accept title to land in the name of the United States to be held in trust for the benefit of an individual Indian or a tribe.

§ 151.2 How are key terms defined in this part?

Alienation means a conveyance or transfer of title to property.

Bureau means the Bureau of Indian Affairs within the Department of the Interior.

Complete Application means an application that contains all the documentation, analysis and information required by § 151.5(f).

Discretionary acquisitions of title means those acquisitions of trust title

which Congress has authorized, but not required us to accept administratively.

Encumbrance means a limitation on the title of property, such as a claim, lien, easement, charge, or restriction of any kind.

Fee simple land means land held absolute and clear of any condition or restriction, and where the owner has unconditional power of disposition.

Governing tribe means the tribe having governmental jurisdiction over the land being acquired.

Individual Indian means a person who:

(1) Is a member of a federally recognized tribe; or

(2) Was physically residing on a federally recognized Indian reservation as of June 1, 1934, and is a descendant of an enrolled member of a federally recognized tribe; or

(3) Possesses a total of one-half degree or more Indian blood of a federally recognized tribe.

Land means real property or any title interest therein, as defined by the statute that authorizes the land acquisition.

Legislative transfer of title means the direct transfer of title to land into trust status for the benefit of an individual Indian or Indian tribe by Congress through legislation. The regulations in this part do not apply to legislative transfers of title.

Mandatory acceptance of title means a conveyance of trust title which Congress has required the Secretary to accept if certain specified conditions over which the Secretary has no control are met.

Reservation means, for purposes of this part, that area of land which has been set aside or which has been acknowledged as having been set aside by the United States for the use of the tribe, the exterior boundaries of which are more particularly defined in a final treaty, Federal agreement, Executive or secretarial order, Executive or secretarial proclamation, United States patent, Federal statute, or final judicial or administrative determination, provided that:

(1) In the State of Oklahoma, *reservation* means that area of land constituting the former reservation of the tribe. *Former reservation* means lands

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that are within the jurisdictional area of an Oklahoma Indian tribe and are within the boundaries of the last reservation established by final treaty, Federal agreement, Executive or secretarial order, Executive or secretarial proclamation, United States patent, Federal statute, or final judicial or administrative determination; and

(2) For Pueblo Indian tribes in the State of New Mexico, *reservation* means lands within the exterior boundaries of lands granted or confirmed to or acquired by the Pueblo as reported by the Pueblo Lands Board under section 2 of the Act of June 7, 1924, ch. 331, 43 Stat. 636, notwithstanding any finding of extinguishment of title, plus any other lands reserved, set aside, or held in trust by the United States for the use of the Pueblo or its members.

Restricted fee land means land the title to which is held by an individual Indian or a tribe and which can only be alienated or encumbered by the owner with the approval of the Secretary because of limitations in the conveyance instrument pursuant to federal law.

Secretary means the Secretary of the Interior or an authorized representative.

Tribal Land Acquisition Area (TLAA) means an area of land approved by the Secretary and designated by a tribe that

- (1) Does not have a reservation; or
- (2) Does not have trust land; or
- (3) Has a trust land base which is incapable of being developed in a manner that promotes tribal self-determination, economic development and Indian housing, and within which the tribe plans to acquire land over a specified period of time.

Tribe means any Indian tribe, nation, band, pueblo, town, community, rancheria, colony, or other group of Indians, which is recognized by the Secretary as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and listed in the FEDERAL REGISTER under Public Law 103-454, act of Nov. 2, 1994 (108 Stat. 4791; 25 U.S.C. 479a (1994)).

Trust land means land, or an interest therein, for which the United States holds fee title in trust for the benefit of an individual Indian or a tribe.

Undivided fractional interest means an interest of co-owners which is in the entire property, that is not divided out from the whole parcel. (Example: If you own 1/4 interest in 160 acres, you do not own 40 acres. You own 1/4 interest in the whole 160 acres because your 1/4 interest has not been divided out from the whole 160 acres.)

We/Us/Our means the Secretary of the Interior or an authorized representative.

§ 151.3 To what types of transactions does this part apply?

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (b) and (c) of this section, this part applies to all fee simple land-to-trust, fee simple land-to-restricted fee or land exchanges involving fee simple land.

(b) This part does not apply to the following transactions:

- (1) Trust-to-trust;
- (2) Restricted-fee to restricted-fee;
- (3) Transfer of title to trust and restricted land through inheritance, devise or escheat;
- (4) Legislative transfer of title into trust status; or
- (5) Federal agency transfers of title.

(c) We will not accept title to land in trust in the State of Alaska, except for the Metlakatla Indian Community of the Annette Island reserve of Alaska or its members.

§ 151.4 How does an individual Indian or a tribe apply to have title to land conveyed to the United States in trust?

Individual Indians and tribes must send us a written request asking that we accept title and place the land into trust.

(a) The request must:

- (1) Identify the applicant (including the applicant's tribal affiliation);
- (2) Include the legal description of the land to be acquired; and
- (3) Include all information which shows that the proposed acquisition meets the applicable requirements in this regulation.

(b) The request does not need to be in any special form. However, we strongly urge the applicant to address each section of this part that is relevant to the type of acquisition (*e.g.*, on- or off-reservation, discretionary or mandatory),